

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-28 (Canceled)

29. (New) A method for facilitating a transaction using an electronic container comprising:
assigning a transaction identifier to the transaction, wherein the transaction identifier is unique to the transaction;
selecting data files for facilitating the transaction according to a creation template, wherein the creation template defines an order of the data files;
creating container index data, wherein the container index data comprises a list of the data files in the container in the order established by the creation template;
forming an electronic container by:
 associating the data files selected using the creation template with the unique transaction identifier; and
 associating the container index data with the unique transaction identifier.
30. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 29, wherein the data files are selected from the group consisting of an image, a document, a database, a computer generated file, an audio file, a video file, and an electronic data interchange file.
31. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 29, wherein the transaction is selected from the group consisting of a loan application, a sale of real property, a sale of goods, a sale of intangible personal property, a legal settlement, a contract for services, and a contract for insurance.
32. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 29, wherein the method further comprises creating file index data of a data file, wherein the file index data is indicative of an organization of the data file, and wherein forming an electronic container further comprises associating the file index data with the unique transaction identifier.
33. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 32, wherein the creation template further defines the file index data to be created for the data file.
34. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 29, wherein the method further comprises creating supplemental data to be acquired from a data file, wherein the supplemental

data is indicative of the content of the data file, and wherein forming an electronic container further comprises associating the file content data with the unique transaction identifier.

35. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 34, wherein the creation template further defines the supplemental data to be acquired from the data file.

36. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 34, wherein the supplemental data are selected from the group consisting of a data parameter value, a field name of a data field within the data file, a field formatting characteristic, and a location coordinate of the data field within the data file.

37. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 29, wherein forming the electronic container further comprises:

associating a transaction participant with the unique transaction identifier; and
providing the electronic container to the transaction participant associated with the unique transaction identifier.

38. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 37, wherein the method further comprises creating an access rule, wherein the access rule is indicative of a level of interaction of the transaction recipient with the electronic container, and wherein forming an electronic container further comprises associating the access rule with the unique transaction identifier.

39. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 38, wherein the access rule is selected from the group consisting of a permission to open the electronic container, a permission to view a data file, a permission to edit a data file, a permission to edit a selected field value, a permission to print a data file, a permission to approve a data file, and a permission to disapprove a data file.

40. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 38, wherein the creation template further defines the access rule.

41. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 38 further comprising applying a recipient template to the electronic container, wherein the recipient template orders the data files in an order determined by the recipient template.

42. (New) The method for facilitating a transaction of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises creating a container accounting rule, wherein the container accounting rule comprises logic for determining whether the electronic container conforms to the creator template and

wherein forming an electronic container further comprises associating the container accounting rule with the unique transaction identifier.

43. (New) A system for creating an electronic container to facilitate a transaction comprising:

- a creation template, wherein the creation template defines an ordered list of data files;

- an electronic container creator adapted for:

 - assigning a transaction identifier to the transaction, wherein the transaction identifier is unique to the transaction;

 - selecting data files for facilitating the transaction according to a creation template;

 - creating container index data, wherein the container index data comprises a list of the data files in the container in the order established by the creation template;

 - associating the data files selected using the creation template with the unique transaction identifier; and

 - associating the container index data with the unique transaction identifier.

44. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the data files are selected from the group consisting of an image, a document, a database, a computer generated file, an audio file, a video file, and an electronic data interchange file.

45. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the transaction is selected from the group consisting of a loan application, a sale of real property, a sale of goods, a sale of intangible personal property, a legal settlement, a contract for services, and a contract for insurance.

46. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the electronic container creator is further adapted for:

- creating file index data of a data file, wherein the file index data is indicative of an organization of the data file; and

- associating the file index data with the unique transaction identifier.

47. (New) The system of claim 46, wherein the creation template further defines the file index data to be created for the data file.

48. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the electronic container creator is further adapted for:

creating supplemental data to be acquired from a data file, wherein the supplemental data is indicative of the content of the data file; and
associating the file content data with the unique transaction identifier.

49. (New) The system of claim 48, wherein the creation template further defines the supplemental data to be acquired from the data file.

50. (New) The system of claim 48, wherein the supplemental data are selected from the group consisting of a data parameter value, a field name of a data field within the data file, a field formatting characteristic, and a location coordinate of the data field within the data file.

51. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the electronic container creator is further adapted for:

associating a transaction participant with the unique transaction identifier; and
providing the electronic container to the transaction participant associated with the unique transaction identifier.

52. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the electronic container creator is further adapted for:

creating an access rule, wherein the access rule is indicative of a level of interaction of the transaction recipient with the electronic container; and
associating the access rule with the unique transaction identifier.

53. (New) The system of claim 52, wherein the access rule is selected from the group consisting of a permission to open the electronic container, a permission to view a data file, a permission to edit a data file, a permission to edit a selected field value, a permission to print a data file, a permission to approve a data file, and a permission to disapprove a data file.

54. (New) The system of claim 52, wherein the creation template further defines the access rule.

55. (New) The system of claim 52 further comprising a recipient viewer, wherein the recipient viewer is adapted for:

applying a recipient template to the electronic container, and
ordering the data files in an order determined by the recipient template.

56. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the electronic container creator is further adapted for:

creating a container accounting rule, wherein the container accounting rule comprises logic for determining whether the electronic container conforms to the creator template;
and
associating the container accounting rule with the unique transaction identifier.